

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 CG-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 COME-00 MCT-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
JUSE-00 /076 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:RJSURBER:NHM
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CUSTOMS:DMUGGEE
ARA/CCA:CGLEYSSTEEN

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O 161407Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193748

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PINR, PINS, MPOL, BF

SUBJECT:INTERDICTION OPERATION

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. EMBASSY MAY PROVIDE APPROPRIATE
BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY

U.S. CUSTOMS:

BEGIN TEXT: FEDERAL AND LOCAL OFFICERS TODAY THWARTED A
PLANNED COMMANDO RAID ON CUBA, ARRESTING A BAY OF PIGS VET-
ERAN AND SEIZING THREE ATTACK BOATS BEFORE THEY LEFT
FLORIDA.

SPECIAL AGENTS FROM THE U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, THE FBI,
THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS (BATF),
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TOGETHER WITH THE DADE COUNTY (FLA) PUBLIC SAFETY
DEPARTMENT ORGANIZED CRIME BUREAU, SEIZED TWO BOATS IN THE
MIAMI RIVER AND ONE AT THE SUBJECT'S RESIDENCE-

THE CUSTOMS MARINE AND AIR PATROL AND THE U.S. COAST GUARD
PROVIDED ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT FOR THE ENTIRE OPERATION.

PEDRO GIL, AGE 41, DATE OF BIRTH: 6/29/36, OF 52 N.W.
58TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA WAS ARRESTED AT HIS RESIDENCE

THIS MORNING.

ACCORDING TO ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY R. JEROME SANFORD,
GIL WILL BE CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE FEDERAL
ARMS EXPORT CONTROL STATUTES WHICH THE CUSTOMS SERVICE
HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ENFORCING. GIL IS MEMBER OF
BRIGAGE 2506 AND IS A VETERAN OF THE ABORTIVE BAY OF
PIGS INVASION IN 1961, AS WELL AS A SMALL COMMANDO
GROUP.

SANFORD SAID THE COMMANDOS HAVE BEEN UNDER CONSTANT
SURVEILLANCE THROUGHOUT THEIR ELABORATE PREPARATIONS OF THE
LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. CUSTOMS AGENTS DETECTED THEIR
UNUSUAL ACTIVITY NOT TOO LONG AFTER A CBS TELEVISION
PROGRAM REFOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE EXILES IN A SPECIAL
PROGRAM ON "THE CIA'S SECRET ARMY."

SANFORD SAID THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO INDICATION OF CIA
INVOLVEMENT IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SIMPLE HIT-AND-RUN
HARASSMENT RAID SOMEWHERE ON THE CUBAN COAST.

THE THREE BOATS SEIZED TODAY INCLUDED A 23 FOOT FORMULA,
A 25 FOOT ANNACAPRI, AND A 28 FOOT ENTERPRISE, WHICH WERE
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HEAVILY ARMED. A TWENTY MILLIMETER CANNON, A .50
CALIBRE MACHINE GUNS AND VARIOUS OTHER AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
WERE CONFISCATED.

SANFORD SAID ALTHOUGH THE PLANNED ATTACK WAS ABORTED BY
THE FEDERAL AND LOCAL OFFICERS, ENOUGH OVERT ACTS HAD BEEN
COMMITTED AS TO CONSTITUTE VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND GIVE
STRONG INDICATIONS OF THE EXILES' ULTIMATE PURPOSE.
END TEXT.

2. ABOVE IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY OFFICE OF
ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY AT MIAMI ON AUGUST 15. END
UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CLASSIFIED. EMBASSY MAY ALSO INFORM APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS THAT ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY IN MIAMI HAS
FOUND THAT THE FUEL AT ANGUILLA CAY HAS EVIDENTIARY
VALUE. THE EXTENT OF THAT VALUE WILL BE DETERMINED
SHORTLY. HOWEVER, IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT ONLY ONE
REPEAT ONE OF THE THIRTY FIVE GALLON BARRELS WILL BE
SUFFICIENT FOR USE IN PROSECUTING THE CASE. EMBASSY
WILL BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY WHEN U.S. ATTORNEY MAKES

FINAL DECISION ON THIS MATTER. END CLASSIFIED. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History: Hold (001 Tobacco) added on 4/16/2009 3:39:06 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ, Hold (001 Tobacco) removed on 4/16/2009 3:45:03 PM by WASHDCMcGoldRJ (Litigation Hold Lifted)
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